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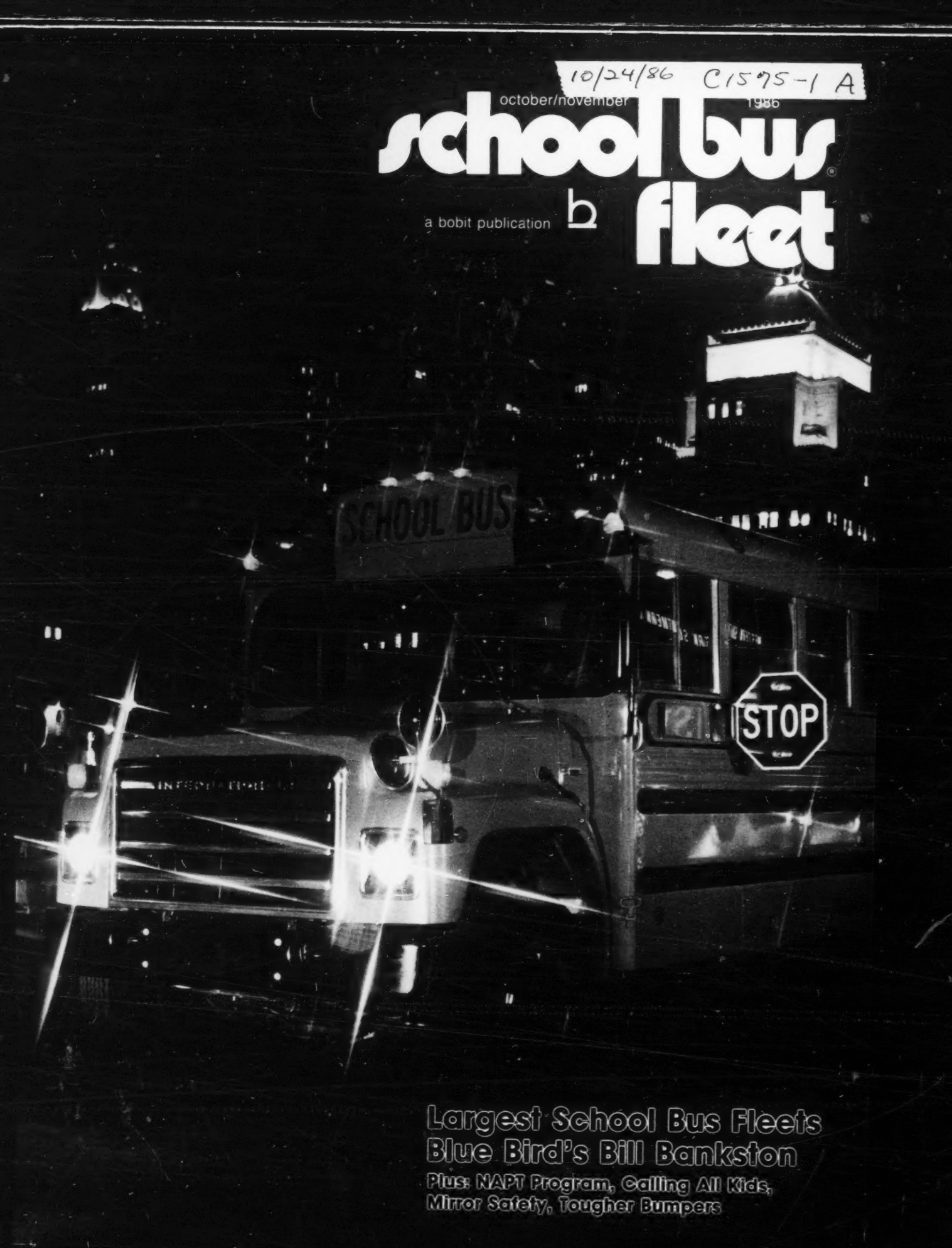

Largest School Bus Fleets
Blue Bird's Bill Bankston

Plus: NAPT Program, Calling All Kids, Mirror Safety, Tougher Bumpers

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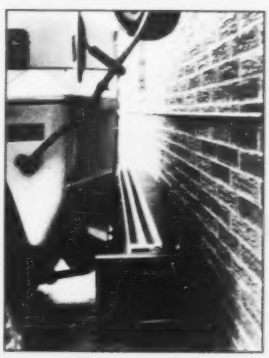

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SBF's Top School Bus Fleets

For the second year in a row, *School Bus Fleet* magazine is presenting the results of a survey of the largest school bus fleets in the United States. We are again reporting the 25 largest district-owned fleets. This year, though, a new feature is a listing of the 10 largest contractor-owned school bus fleets. Originally, the editors of the magazine set out to report the 25 largest contractor firms as well, but the continuing wave of mergers and acquisitions precluded accurate compilation of the data. After numerous futile efforts we settled on the Top 10 contractor fleets.

Other additions to this year's survey: fleets are listed by type of vehicle – Type I conventional and/or transit-style bus over 10,000 lbs. GVW, and Type II van and/or handicapped vehicle under 10,000 lbs. GVW. We also asked operators to supply the approximate number of school children they transport daily during regular morning and afternoon runs only. Finally, we asked district operators how many of their school buses are contracted.

No fleet of less than 500 school buses made it into this year's list, whereas last year ones with as few as 400 buses qualified for inclusion. The largest district fleet – Chicago Public School District – reported 2,500 buses, albeit all of them contracted. Meanwhile Los Angeles Unified School District remains the largest district-owned fleet with 1,520 buses; an additional 641 are contracted buses.

Taking first place among the contractors is Laidlaw Transportation with more than 12,000 school buses, though only 8,000 of these are based in the United States.

The public fleets we listed are located throughout 16 states. The contractor-owned fleets are headquartered primarily in Illinois and California, with New York, Missouri, Florida and Minnesota each claiming one.

Top 10 Contractor Fleets

RANK	CONTRACTORS	TOTAL NO. OF BUSES	TYPE I (CONV/TRANSIT)	TYPE II (VAN/HANDICAP)	NO. OF PUPILS TRANSPORTED DAILY
1	Laidlaw Transportation, Van Nuys, Calif.	12,000 *	6,000	6,000	600,000
2	RW Harmon & Sons, Inc., Belton, Mo.	3,400	2,800	600	180,000
3	National School Bus Svc., Palatine, Ill.	2,672	2,238	434	207,000
4-5	Ryder Truck & Bus, Miami, Fla.	2,000	1,300	700	150,000
4-5	Taylor Bus Service, Anaheim, Calif.	2,000	1,000	1,000	30,000
6	Chicago Bus Sales, Inc. Crestwood, Ill.	1,200	800	400	100,000
7	Russell Transp., Rosemead, Calif.	1,155	600	555	60,000
8	Jay Dee Tom for Transportation, Roosevelt, N.Y.	1,046	201	845	11,000
9	St. Paul Bus Co., St Paul, Minn.	700	680	20	40,000
10	Willett Motor Coach Co., Chicago, Ill.	600	525	750	30,000

* *Includes Canadian bus fleet. All other totals are for U.S. operations only.*

Top 25 District Fleets

RANK	SCHOOL DISTRICT FLEET	TOTAL NO. OF BUSES	TYPE I (CONV./TRANSIT)	TYPE II (VAN/HANDICAP)	PUPILS PER DAY	BUSES CONTRACTED
1	Chicago Public Sch. Dist., Chicago, Ill.	2,500	1,500	1,000	42,000	2,500
2	Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, Calif.	2,161	1,428	733	68,000	641
3	Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee, Wis.	1,400	880	520	55,000	1,400
4	Philadelphia School District, Philadelphia, Penn.	1,025	625	400	30,000	700
5	Dallas County School Dist., Dallas, Texas	1,010	690	320	43,000	NONE
6	Fairfax County School District, Springfield, Va.	980	799	181	86,000	NONE
7	Houston Independent School District, Houston, Texas	921	621	300	78,000	NONE
8	Hillsborough County School District, Wimauma, Fla.	853	653	200	66,000	NONE
9	Montgomery County School District, Rockville, Md.	793	543	250	58,000	NONE
10-11	New Orleans School District, New Orleans, La.	730	570	160	41,000	NONE
10-11	Prince George County School District, Bowie, Md.	730	500	230	70,000	3
12	Detroit Public School Dist., Detroit, Mich.	720	570	150	30,000	NONE
13	Dade County School District, Miami, Fla.	698	698	0	43,000	698
14	Wake County School Dist., Raleigh, N.C.	690	599	91	38,000	NONE
15	Duval County School District, Jacksonville, Fla.	670	520	150	56,000	670
16	Jefferson City School District, Jefferson City, Mo.	650	228	422	11,300	650
17	Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District Charlotte, N.C.	644	644	0	50,000	NONE
18	E. Baton Rouge Parish School Dist., Baton Rouge, La.	620	445	175	45,000	1
19	Baltimore County School District, Baltimore, Md.	618	391	227	48,000	42
20	Jefferson County School District, Louisville, Ky.	613	490	123	64,000	149
21-22	Boston City Schools, Boston, Mass.	550	396	154	35,000	364
21-22	Cleveland City Sch., Cleveland, Ohio	550	413	137	36,000	NONE
23	Caddo Parish School Dist., Shreveport, La.	525	505	20	27,000	NONE
24	Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis, Minn.	523	453	80	36,000	453
25	Austin School District, Austin, Texas	515	335	180	27,000	NONE